

Houston Marine Insurance Seminar

View from Counsel - Drones in the Maritime Sector



Houston, TX

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Legal Background

- Part 107 of Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR) (August 29, 2016)
- *Commercial* drones or small unmanned aircraft systems (“sUAS”)

Offshore

- Part 107 applies within 12 nautical miles (NM)
- “Intrastate” commerce = 3 or 9 NM
- ICAO applies beyond 12NM
- FAA Jurisdictional hook when beyond 12NM:
 - Registered in United States
 - U.S. operator
 - U.S. company

Key Operational Limitations - Nutshell

- Less than 55 lbs
- Daylight hours (or civil twilight w/ lighting)
- Max 100 mph
- Visual line of sight (VLOS)
- Not over people

Subpart B – Operating Rules

- Hazardous operation (14 CFR 107.23)
- May not operate in a **careless or reckless manner** so as to endanger the life or property of another.

Standard of Care—sUAS Operations

- Compliance with all regulations and laws
- Best Practices
- Safety Management System
- Qualified personnel

Guidance Notes
for
Inspection using
Unmanned Aircraft Systems

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Questions?



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